

Fall Stated Cimarron Presbytery Meeting Draft Minutes
First United Presbyterian Church, Guthrie, OK; October 15, 2019

Teaching Elders Present: Gordon Edwards, HR; Leah Hrachovec, Stillwater; Jennifer Hardin, Stillwater; Karen Rogers, Woodward; Andrew Long, Enid; Deborah Meinke, HR; Linda Sherry, Guymon; Rick Mills, HR; Everett Miller, At-Large

Ruling Elders Present: Jennifer Bozarth, Guthrie; Christianne Chase, Enid; Nancy Dale, Guymon; Mark Southard, Newkirk; Mike Hull, Newkirk; Mike Dvorak, Blackwell; Phyllis Taylor, Stillwater; Jenna Campbell, Stillwater; Billie DeBoard, Blackwell; Ida Evans, Alva; Bill Salmons, Ponca City

Teaching Elders Excused: Gay Cocheres, HR; Deborah Green, At Large; Cynthia Rigby, At Large, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Ruling Elders Excused: Tonkawa

Seating of Corresponding Members – Rev. Amy Rogers, Guthrie, DOC; Rev. Bud Ruggia, Alva, Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Recognition of Visitors: Ann Salmons, Ponca City

Registration and fellowship time began at 9 am in the Parlor. Commissioners and visitors gathered in the sanctuary for the morning session at 9:40 AM. Christianne Chase, Moderator, thanked Guthrie for hosting today’s meeting and offered a reading of the poem “The Kind of Christian I Refuse to Be,” to open the meeting. The body moved into worship. We enjoyed special music by Dennis Laughlin playing the native flute. Kim Walkingstick-Bird, Cherokee Nation, and Shu Contreras delivered an acknowledgement of our presence on native land and the trials experienced by native tribes. Rev. Karen Rogers, preached. Communion was served by intinction. The offering was collected for Dwight Mission as well as the Logan County Long-Term Recovery Group.

Following a short break, the Moderator re-gathered the assembly. The clerk declared that a quorum (5 TE, 5 RE, 5 churches) was present. New commissioners and visitors were recognized and corresponding members were seated. The Moderator appointed Leah Hrachovec, Stillwater, and Ann Salmons, Ponca City to review attendance, and Jenny Hardin Stillwater, and Mike Dvorak, Blackwell to count the offering. The Moderator requested a motion to adopt the meeting agenda (Andrew Long, Karen Rogers), which was adopted as presented. A motion to approve minutes from the June 2019 Tri-Presbytery Meeting in Oklahoma City was offered by Mark Southard (Mike Dvorak, second). Minutes were APPROVED as corrected by voice vote.

Treasurer – Andrew Long

Andrew reported on the Presbytery Finances at the end of the 3rd quarter, and reminded churches to pay their 2019 per capita. Andrew moved (Leah seconded) that today’s offering be matched by presbytery – APPROVED by voice vote

2020 Budget – per capita not increasing this year, note increased mission spending

Motion from Council that presbytery adopt the budget as presented – APPROVED by voice vote. The Stated Clerk will send out per capita letters to each congregation right away.

Council – Christianne Chase, Moderator

Change Presbyter title from Executive to General Presbyter (Amend Bylaws/Standing Rules; Art. 4, Sect. 6 and other refs.) – Motion APPROVED by voice vote

Allocation of funds to Austin Seminary Learning Center campaign - \$6000 to be taken from Theological Education Fund and Council funds

Report that FPC, Guymon, will be leasing their manse

Money to Judge Pistole’s church in New Covenant PBY

Executive Presbyter Report – Rev. Gordon Edwards

Gordon updated the presbytery on OPN activities, in particular, planning for an opioid awareness event. The OPN is organizing a 2021 trip to Palestine/Israel led by Gordon (10-15 people would be the optimum group size). Greg and James Smith, Alva, attended the Synod Leadership Summit and were very impacted by it. Given the withdrawal of American military from the Kurdish region of Syria, Gordon reported that last week he learned that 3 Evangelical Presbyterian churches are in NE Syria, and Christians are living in heightened fear. The water supply in 1 community was bombed by Turkey, another community is short of food. PDA has contacted the National Evangelical Synod in Syria. Gordon is planning to go to Lebanon (and Syria?) in spring of 2020. Gordon will be speaking in Enid this Sunday Oct. 20 on Syria. He offered a prayer for our Syrian brothers and sisters, all impacted by the renewed violence.

Dwight Mission Agency Report – Gordon Edwards

The Board was made aware of serious financial difficulties that emerged several months ago, largely a result from the Executive Director not producing financial resources as anticipated. A commission of a pastor, lawyer, accountant, and foundation rep. has been appointed to fully investigate Dwight’s situation and a report to the full board is expected by the end of October. Conversation with annuity gifter about buyout in order to access this gift. Richie Withycombe has resigned and is taking a new position at end of October. Former executive director Rob Duncan’s contract was terminated in Sept. though he left Oklahoma in May, retiring to Florida Planned events (2) between Oct and Dec are covered, but no new events are being scheduled at this time. If Dwight is to close or be sold, OK presbyteries are responsible for covering outstanding debts, \$480K with PILP. The \$10K gift from Cimarron’s Presbyterian Women went to the Capital Improvement campaign. It is not clear where the renovation projects stand, but thought that no interior work has been done on Ad Bldg.

Other employees: Maintenance person, kitchen staff has been reduced and is on contract per event. There is an office secretary/bookkeeper still working.

Synod of the Sun – Christianne Chase, Synod Commissioner

Christianne reminded the assembly of the IMAGINE COMPASSION opportunity Oct. 31-Nov.2 – 4 people from Cimarron are going. Presbytery will pay up to \$250 toward airfare for registrants.

Commission on Ministry and Preparation Report – Mark Southard, Moderator

Gordon moved (seconded by?) to empower COM&P to appoint Installation commissions for Karen Rogers (Sun. Nov. 10 at 4 PM), Woodward, and Linda Sherry, Ponca City (Sun. Oct. 27 at 4 PM) – APPROVED by voice vote

Perry MIF active, PNC hard at work

Prayers for Guymon congregation, in discernment about future plans

Recognize Everett Miller's service to the church as he is released from ministry of Word and Sacrament, an action taken by COM&P. Gordon recounted Everett's journey in ministry. Everett will be removed from the presbytery minister roll by the Stated Clerk and this action reported to the denomination.

Though Mark is the interim moderator (after Josh's departure), Council should nominate another COM&P moderator in 2020 when Mark becomes the Stated Clerk.

Nominations Committee - Linda Sherry (in Ed Arquitt's absence) presented the 2020 slate of Presbytery officers, reading off each nomination. Nominations from the floor were solicited. Rick Mills moved (Ida Evans second) that nominations be closed and the slate of officers be elected – APPROVED by voice vote. Christianne Chase was elected to a 2nd term as Moderator. Mark Southard was elected to a 3 year term as Stated Clerk and the current clerk Deborah Meinke will work with Mark to transition him into this position.

We could accept and act on a YAAD nominee for General Assembly prior to the December deadline.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium – Jenna Campbell

Presbyterian Youth Triennium occurred July 16-20, 2019 on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Cimarron Presbytery's delegation totaled 11 participants - 8 youth (4 from Stillwater, 3 from Perry, and 1 from Alva) and 3 adults (Stillwater, Perry, Woodward). The Cimarron Presbytery delegation traveled with the other two Oklahoma presbyteries. The entire Oklahoma delegation totaled 34 participants. The Oklahoma delegation enjoyed incredible worship with powerful preaching, transformative small groups, and being exposed to the larger church. Many thanks to the presbytery for the funds to attend.

SCRAPCE – Jenna Campbell

Jenna is seeking a contact for each congregation focused on education so that she can pass along helpful information, ZOOM calls are planned for interacting with volunteer educators who are at a distance from meetings. She highly recommended the APCE event in Little Rock, AR, Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 2020, Teresa Cho, Keynote, John Bell/IONA worship music. Scholarships are available.

The presbytery moved to Fellowship Hall to eat lunch prepared by the women of Guthrie. Meredith Shafer of S.T.O.R.M. (Strategic Treatment Options & Recovery Ministries) Sober living center in Logan County, described their work, resources available for addiction recovery, and encouraged partnering with them to respond to the widespread opioid epidemic. Following Meredith's presentation, Andrew moved (Karen seconded) to donate \$500 to STORM – APPROVED by voice vote

Presbyterian Women – Barbara Younger

With gratitude for their faithful ministry, the stated clerk accepted the final Written Report as Cimarron Presbyterian Women is dissolved. Individual church Presbyterian Women groups will continue.

Ecumenical Relationships/OCC – Deb Meinke

Andrew Long being recognized with Ecumenist of the Year Award; Cimarron is sponsoring a table at the OCC Annual Dinner November 7th (Inspire level \$600) and presbytery members are encouraged to attend.

Stated Clerk Report – Rev. Deborah Meinke

U of O Pastoral Study Leave applications are open for 2020 spring semester.

The Clerk presented two resolutions requesting that the situation at the University of Tulsa be addressed by the Synod and the General Assembly. These resolutions were developed in response to discussion at the Tri-Presbytery meeting and the tabling of an overture that was passed by Eastern Oklahoma and Indian Nations presbyteries – APPROVED by voice vote. The clerk will transmit these overtures to Synod and GA to be placed on their assembly agendas.

Rev. Meinke thanked the presbytery for working with her through 7 rewarding years as Stated Clerk.

The afternoon program “We, too, are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” [handout] was offered by Phyllis Taylor, Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, OK - Fellowship Hall. Phyllis helped us become aware of best practices for engaging with people who have a wide range of disabilities and advised us on how important it is to include people with disabilities in the life and mission of the church, not as ‘projects’ but as faithful Christians serving God together.

Attendance was reported – 9 TE, 9 RE, from 8 churches. The offering collected was \$343

Hosts for 2020: Ponca City – Feb. 18, 2020; Alva – May 12, 2020; Blackwell – Oct. 13, 2020

Other Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines

Mid-Council Leaders Gathering, Oct. 17-20, Baltimore, MD

Association of MidCouncil Leaders/Association of Stated Clerks Gathering, Oct. 20-21, Baltimore, MD

Oklahoma Presbyterian Network Pastor’s Retreat, Oct. 28-29, St. Crispin’s Camp, Wewoka, OK

Synod of the Sun Fall Stated Meeting, Oct. 31, 2019, 3-7 PM, First Presbyterian Church, McAllen, TX

Synod of the Sun IMAGINE Compassion Event, Oct. 31, 7 PM -Nov. 2, 12 noon, First Presbyterian Church, McAllen, TX

Oklahoma Conference of Churches Annual Dinner, November 7, 2019, 5:30 PM, OKC, Farmer’s Public Market

Commission on Ministry and Preparation, FPC, Enid, November 5, 2019

Statistics of the Church entry *begins December 1, 2019.*

A number of joys and concerns were shared (Martha Evans, Alva, Emily, Guthrie). Moderator Chase adjourned our meeting at 2:45 PM with a reading of “Prepare the Way” and prayer to send us out.

Rev. Deborah Meinke, Stated Clerk

Christianne Chase, Moderator